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REMARKS

Claims 1-78 are pending in the application.

Claims 19-21, 24, 27-43, 45, 52-54, 56-58, 60, 66-68, 70-72, and 74 are withdrawn from further consideration.

Claim 10 has been previously cancelled.

Claims 44, 46-49, 59, 61-64, 73, 75, 76, and 78 have been cancelled herewith.

Claims 1, 50, and 65 have been amended herewith. Applicants submit no new matter has been provided by way of these amendments.

Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has sustained the prior rejections as follows: Claims 50, 51, 59, 61-63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Narimatsu *et al.* (EP 0530729 A1); Claims 1-6, 11-18, 44, and 46-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Narimatsu *et al.* (EP 0530729 A2); Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-16, 44, 49, 50, and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 59,179,676; Claims 7-9, 65, 73, 75-78 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being ; and Claims 4, 5, 65, 73, and 78 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 59,179,676. In further support of the original positions and arguments on these rejections, Applicants note that the references do not teach or suggest the use of the pentaerythritol tris([β]-N-aziridinyl)propionate] crosslinker of Applicants' invention. Applicants maintain these rejections should be withdrawn.

The following new rejections have now been raised:

Claim 64 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Narimatsu *et al.* (EP 0530729). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention provides polymers at least as described in Claim 1, wherein said polymers are crosslinked with pentaerythritol tris([β]-N-aziridinyl)propionate].

Narimatsu does not teach or suggest the polymers of Applicants' invention crosslinked with pentaerythritol tris[([β]-N-aziridiny)propionate], and further having the peel strength values as claimed. All elements of Applicants' invention are not provided by Narimatsu. A *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been established. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 22, 23, 25, 26, 55, and 69 stand rejected under 5 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narimatsu *et al.* (EP 0530729 A1) in view of Phan *et al.* (U.S. 5,969,032). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention is as discussed above.

Narimatsu is as discussed above.

Phan teaches latex binders for coatings having a polymerizable surfactant. Phan does not teach or suggest the polyaziridine propionate crosslinkers of Applicants' invention. Further, Phan does not teach or suggest the polymers of Applicants' invention.

Alone or in combination Narimatsu and Phan do not teach or suggest the crosslinked polymers of Applicants' invention which are crosslinked with pentaerythritol tris[([β]-N-aziridiny)propionate]. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

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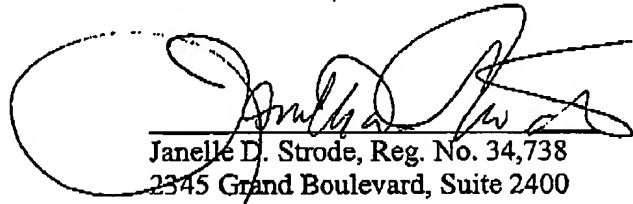
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CONCLUSIONS

Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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